

City of Newport Beach

Newport Beach City Arts Commission July 10, 2008– 5:00pm Central Library Friends Room

Convened at 5:03pm

Call To Order And Roll Call

Commissioners Present: Rita Goldberg
Robert Smith
Wendy Brooks
Gil Lasky
Kirwan Rockefeller, Chair
Robyn Grant, Vice Chair

Commissioners Absent: Gerald Allison

Staff Present: Jana Barbier, Staff Liaison, Cultural Arts Coordinator

Public Present: Public in attendance were asked to sign a roster stating their names.

Public Comments:

Kirwan Rockefeller welcomed the public present. John Linnert distributed information on the Mariners Medical Arts Building at 1901 Westcliff Drive. He explained the historical significance of the building, designed by Richard Neutra in the 1960s. Linnert noted the plans and timeline for rebuilding the structure. Barbara Lamprecht spoke also with regard to the importance of the building, and presented information on Neutra's biography and status in architectural design. Many of those present spoke of the importance of the building and their concern for preserving it. Letters and testimonials from architects, historians and Neutra family members were distributed to the Arts Commission in favor of preserving the Neutra Building at 1901 Westcliff Drive.

Commissioner Lasky spoke specifically with the group with regard to what the Art Commission could provide. Lasky reminded those present that the timing was rather critical. Arts Commissioners spoke with the group about contacting their City Council representatives and planning department officials.

Approval of Minutes:

It was MSP (Brooks/Lasky) to approve the June 12, 2008 minutes.

New Business: Kirwan Rockefeller welcomed the new Arts Commissioners, Rita Goldberg and Robert Smith. Commissioners all introduced themselves and provided their art backgrounds and length of time in Newport Beach.

Rockefeller noted that it was time for the “Election of Officers” and opened the floor for nominations:

Election of Officers 2008/2009:

Chairperson: Robyn Grant was nominated by Wendy Brooks. Gil Lasky seconded the motion. The group voted unanimously to elect Robyn Grant.

Vice Chairperson: Kirwan Rockefeller was nominated by Robyn Grant. Wendy Brooks seconded the motion. The group voted unanimously to elect Kirwan Rockefeller.

Secretary: Rita Goldberg was nominated by Kirwan Rockefeller. Robyn Grant seconded the motion. The group voted unanimously to elect Rita Goldberg.

Rockefeller noted that the Arts Commissioners could discuss goals and review information in the General Plan at a future meeting.

Robert Smith asked what the responsibility of the Arts Commission was in reviewing historical properties in Newport Beach. Discussion ensued regarding city policies and the importance of meeting in a public forum. Arts Commission Chair Grant asked that the information provided by the public that evening be included in the following month’s board packets.

Continued Business:

Staff Report /Correspondence - Staff asked if commissioners had had the chance to review the current staff report. A 2008/2009 Arts Commission roster was passed around for corrections.

Committee Updates: Chair Robyn Grant noted that the new commissioners could consider which committee(s) they would like to serve on in 2008-2009.

Performing Arts Committee – Commissioner Lasky discussed the performing arts committee and the types of duties that are required to serve on this committee. He noted designating talent, locations and logistics for Concerts and Shakespeare in the Park.

Fine Arts Committee – Robyn Grant discussed visual arts programs such as the annual Juried Art exhibition and revolving exhibitions at Central Library, as well as in City Hall. She noted helping staff with installing exhibitions and attending planned receptions.

Art in Public Places Committee -

Commissioner Rockefeller noted that this year two public art projects had been installed, the Marine 1/1 Memorial and the McFadden Square Centennial Legacy Project. Both projects had significant impacts on the Arts Commission, as well as cultural arts staff.

Civic Auditorium Facility Committee -

Discussion ensued regarding a cultural center, as well as the arts in a New City Hall complex. Commissioners discussed following up on any architectural design citizens-advisory committees that they could join, as well as talking to specific City Councilpersons with regard to their ideas.

Arts Foundation Liaison Committee – Commissioners noted that the Foundation's Art in the Park event turnout was lighter than expected, but that overall the day was a success. Rockefeller gave a brief background on the Arts Foundation and their connection with the Arts Commission.

Commissioner Announcements – None

It was MSP (Rockefeller/Lasky) to adjourn the meeting.

Adjournment: 7:20p.m.